

amended claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12-14, 16, 17, and 24 and canceled claims 3, 6, 15, and 18. The Applicant respectfully respect that the Amendments to the claims render moot the objections and rejections to the claims.

Referring initially to the objections to claims 1 and 12, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify the relationship between the selected motion control system and the format of the at least one hardware independent motion command. The Applicant has further amended claim 12 to correct the editing error noted by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claims 1 and 12 render moot the Examiner's objections thereto and withdrawal of those objections is respectfully requested.

Referring now to the substantive rejections under 35 USC §§ 102(e) and 103(a), the Applicant has amended claim 1 to emphasize that the present invention as claimed is implemented using a set of functions that are called by the client application. The functions are associated with one or more hardware independent service requests. The build module, which may or may not be part of the client, builds one or more service request envelopes that contain hardware independent service requests associated with functions called by the client application.

The service request envelopes conform to a network protocol associated with the communications network. The service request envelopes are capable of being transmitted across the communications network according to the network protocol.

A service request format module extracts one or more hardware independent service requests from service request envelopes generated by the build module. These hardware independent service requests are then converted into hardware independent service request functions. The motion control system comprises a motion services module that converts hardware independent service request functions into hardware independent motion commands, where a format of the motion commands is determined based on at least one selected motion control system. The selected motion control system operates in response to the motion commands to perform services associated with the hardware independent service requests.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Kreissig et al. patent fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a system as recited in claim 1 in which, when functions are called by

a client application, service request envelopes are generated and sent across a network, at which point hardware independent service request functions are generated from hardware independent service requests of the service request envelopes. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 1 renders moot the rejection under 35 USC § 102(e) and requests withdrawal of that rejection. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 4, 5, and 12 further define claim 1 and thus are also not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the Kreissig patent.

The Applicant has amended claim 13 to emphasize that the present invention as claimed is implemented using a set of functions that are called by the client application. The functions are associated with one or more hardware independent service requests. The build module, which may or may not be part of the client, builds one or more service request envelopes that contain hardware independent service requests associated with functions called by the client application.

The service request envelopes conform to a network protocol associated with the communications network. The service request envelopes are capable of being transmitted across the communications network according to the network protocol.

A service request format module extracts one or more hardware independent service requests from service request envelopes generated by the build module. These hardware independent service requests are then converted into hardware independent service request functions. The motion control system comprises a motion services module that converts hardware independent service request functions into hardware independent motion commands, where the hardware independent service request method conforms to a programming interface common to the supported motion control systems. The selected motion control system operates in response to the motion commands to perform services associated with the hardware independent service requests.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Kreissig et al. patent fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a system as recited in claim 13 in which, when functions are called by a client application, service request envelopes are generated and sent across a network, at which point hardware independent service request functions are generated from hardware independent service requests of the service request envelopes. The

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to claim 13 renders moot the rejection under 35 USC § 102(e) and requests withdrawal of that rejection. The Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14, 16, 17, and 24 further define claim 13 and thus are also not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the Kreissig patent.

Given the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 12-14, 16, 17, and 24 under 35 USC § 102(e) and 103(a).

Submitted herewith is a document (entitled Exhibit A - Listing of All Claims and Amendments (06-09-2006)) containing a listing of the claims as currently presented. The Listing attached herewith contains the text of each pending claim, along with any amendments made hereby (illustrated using strikethrough and underlining) and the status of each pending claim.

The Applicant respectfully submits that currently pending claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-14, 16, 17, and 19-24 are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If there is any matter which could be expedited by consultation with the Applicant's attorney, such would be welcome. The Applicant's attorney can normally be reached at the telephone number below.

Signed at Bellingham, County of Whatcom, State of Washington this 9th day of June, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office fax number 571-273-8300 on the date shown below.

Signature: Susie Hubka
Print Name: Susie Hubka
Date: June 9, 2006